

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-13 ACDA-07 DHA-02 /089 W

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P R 201600Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7946

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L GABORONE 0729

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, BC, RH, US

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT KHAMA ON RHODESIA

REF: GABORONE 0150

1. IN THE COURSE OF CONVERSATION APRIL 20 ON OTHER MATTERS, PRESIDENT KHAMA TOLD ME THAT GOB WILL ADVOCATES PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO RHODESIAN CONSTITUTIONAL DISPUTE AND INDICATED GOB HAS NO INTENTION OF CLOSING RHODESIAN RAIL LINK.

2. I NOTED A NUMBER OF IDEAS HAVE BEEN FLOATED RECENTLY BY BRITISH AND OTHERS ON THE RHODESIAN PROBLEM AND ASKED PRESIDENT FOR HIS VIEWS. PRESIDENT REITERATED GOB POSITION CALLING FOR NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT OF THE RHODESIAN ISSUE. HE NOTED THAT EVERY EFFORT HAD BEEN MADE TO CREATE ATMOSPHERE FOR PEACEFUL
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SETTLEMENT; THIS HAD FAILED BECAUSE OF SMITH'S INTRASIGENCE.

BLACKS IN RHODESIA FELT THEY HAD NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO LIBERATE THEIR COUNTRY BY VIOLENCE. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES THE ZIMBABWEAN NATIONALISTS LOOK FOR MATERIAL SUPPORT FROM ANY SOURCE INCLUDING THE WEST. PRESIDENT WONDERED WHETHER THE UNITED STATES WOULD BE PREPARED TO PROVIDE SUCH ASSISTANCE. KHAMA NOTED THAT BLACKS IN RHODESIA DID NOT UNDERSTAND PRONOUNCEMENTS IN SUPPORT OF MAJORITY RULE AND PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT WHEN SMITH'S MINORITY-RULED REGIME WAS USING VIOLENCE TO SUPPRESS THE MAJORITY. GIVEN PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES, KHAMA THOUGHT THAT WEST COULD AT LEAST OFFER SOME ENCOURAGEMENT TO FREEDOM FIGHTERS AND REFRAIN FROM REFERRING TO THEM AS TERRORISTS AND GUERRILLAS. KHAMA ALSO STRESSED THAT U.S. SHOULD REPEAT THE BYRD AMENDMENT. HE NOTED THAT THE RHODESIAN SANCTIONS COULD NOT BE FULLY EFFECTIVE AS LONG AS WESTERN COMMODITIES AND POSSIBLY CAPITAL WERE BEING DIVERTED FROM SOUTH AFRICA TO RHODESIA. KHAMA SUGGESTED THAT SOME ACTION WAS NEEDED TO PLUG THIS LOOPHOLE. FINALLY, PRESIDENT KHAMA NOTED THAT U.S. AND OTHERS SHOULD THOROUGHLY DISABUSE SMITH OF THE NOTION THAT THE WEST WILL IN THE END BE HIS SAVIOR.

3. I BRIEFED PRESIDENT KHAMA ON RECENT STATEMENTS BY PRESIDENT FORD AND THE SECRETARY ON RHODESIA. ALSO NOTED OUR CO-SPONSORSHIP OF RECENT UN RESOLUTION TO STRENGTHEN RHODESIAN SANCTIONS, OUR ASSISTANCE TO BLACK RHODESIAN STUDENTS OVER THE YEARS AND OUR SUPPORT FOR THE MOZAMBIQUE SANCTIONS OFFSE PACKAGE. KHAMA SHOWED SOME APPRECIATION FOR THESE ACTIONS BUT LEFT NO DOUBT THAT BLACKS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA EXPECTED MORE FROM THE UNITED STATES.

BOLEN

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